

STANFORD UNIVERSITY STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

November 4, 1979

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



Dr. Joshua Lederberg, President Rockefeller University New York, New York 10021

Dear Josh:

I'm enclosing a copy of the piece on the "third" A-bomb.

Yes, I'm trying to finish a book that takes the story of A-weapons from 1939 through the employment of threats in Korea (by Ike), and I'm soon off to Washington for some more material on the H-bomb decisions and the Korean War period.

In connection with a project at the medical school here, I became interested in the quest for the artificial heart, and from the hearings and from an interview with Julius Comroe (conducted by some others), I learned of your great interest in the project. Perhaps some time when you are out here you could spare an hour so that I might ask you about the early years, 1963-68 in particular.

I'm struck by the fact that the public record indicates almost no opposition, though Comroe suggested, and Congressional hearings provide some confirmation, that Shannon of NIH had serious doubts by 1966 and cut back the funding, with Congressional approval.

I wonder whether you would have any of your correspondence on the artificial heart program and whether it would be possible to secure copies of the portions that would reveal the assumptions, strategy, and differences over the quest for the artificial heart. Comroe implied that he has some correspondence with you on the early program but felt, quite rightly, that he should not show it to others without your express appr val.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Barton J. Bernstein

Associate Professor